



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GLS Thermoplastic Elastomers Introduces Cleaner, “Greener” TPEs for Medical Tubing

***New VERSAFLEX™ grades are made without phthalates and halogens and are exceptionally low in extractables***

ANAHEIM, Calif. – February 10, 2009 – GLS Thermoplastic Elastomers, a PolyOne business and global leader in high-performance, custom-formulated thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs), will exhibit a new portfolio of materials at MDM West in booth #1455. These five VERSAFLEX™ HC TPE materials feature U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) compliance with extremely low extractables for cleaner compounds that address health, environmental, and safety concerns.

Apprehensions about the environmental impact of plastics are causing medical device manufacturers to take a hard look at traditional polymer materials that incorporate halogens, phthalate-based plasticizers, or high levels of extractables. These five FDA-compliant materials provide customers with new choices for designing cleaner and more eco-conscious medical tubing. Choosing VERSAFLEX HC TPE, made without phthalates or halogens, can help tubing manufacturers comply with current and anticipated regulations while delivering high performance and quality.

“There’s currently a lot of discussion about the health risks of phthalates and other plastic additives, and although the jury is still out, the clear trend is for increasing restrictions in the use of these substances,” said Joe Kutka, technology launch manager, GLS Thermoplastic Elastomers. “Added to this is the mandate to create products that can be recycled or, alternatively, incinerated or disposed of without releasing halogens. To help our customers stay on top of upcoming regulations, we’ve created a full portfolio of recyclable, medical-grade TPEs that avoid phthalates and halogens and provide many desirable properties.”

The VERSAFLEX HC product family comprises five grades: three offer high clarity for applications such as IV tubing, and the other two are translucent and provide excellent high-temperature performance for autoclaving. All grades can be extruded or injection molded, offering manufacturers the option to use a single material for both tubing and connectors.

- VERSAFLEX HC MT226—85 Shore A hardness—A high-clarity, flexible TPE made without plasticizers or halogens, it also offers low extractables and is stable under various sterilization methods.
- VERSAFLEX HC MT227—90 Shore A hardness—This TPE offers the same properties as the MT226 grade at a higher durometer.
- VERSAFLEX HC MT228—95 Shore A hardness—With the same properties as the MT226 grade, this TPE offers the highest durometer in the group.
- VERSAFLEX HC MT307—68 Shore A hardness—Featuring exceptional high-temperature resistance, this translucent TPE can be autoclaved at up to 135°C. It is made without phthalates or halogens, and offers low extractables.
- VERSAFLEX HC MT555—57 Shore A hardness—This material is a translucent, non-phthalate and non-halogenated TPE with good high-temperature resistance for autoclaving at up to 127 °C.

As a leading custom TPE compounder, GLS Thermoplastic Elastomers offers extensive resources for customizing these VERSAFLEX grades to meet specific requirements for feel, modulus, hardness and other properties.

### **About GLS Thermoplastic Elastomers**

GLS Thermoplastic Elastomers, acquired by PolyOne in January 2008, is a global leader in the development, manufacture, and supply of high-performance, custom-formulated thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs). Please visit our Web site at [www.glscorp.com](http://www.glscorp.com) for additional information.

## **About PolyOne**

PolyOne Corporation, with annual revenues of more than \$2.7 billion, is a premier provider of specialized polymer materials, services and solutions. Headquartered outside of Cleveland, Ohio USA, PolyOne has operations around the world. For additional information on PolyOne, visit our Web site at [www.polyone.com](http://www.polyone.com).

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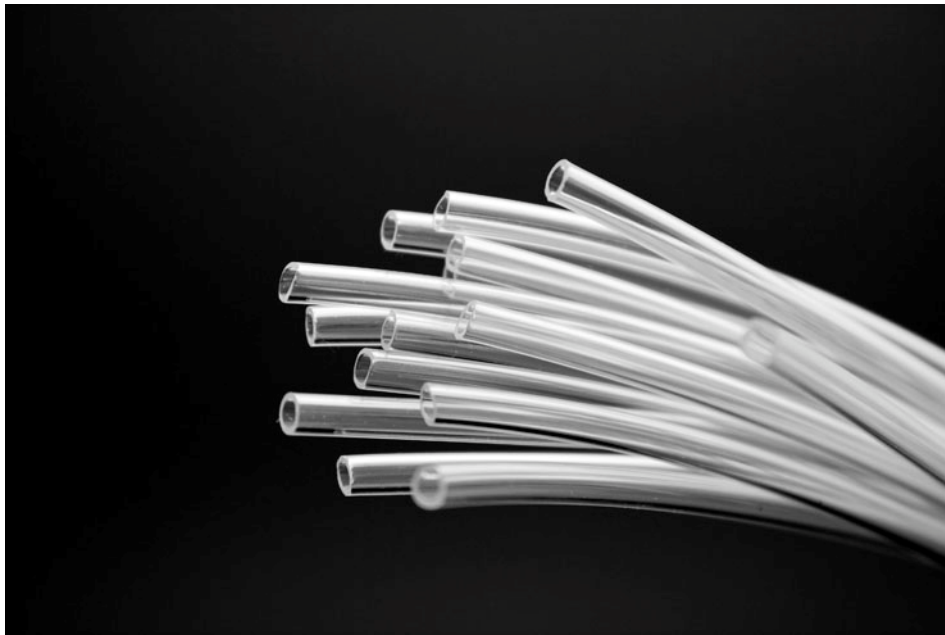


Photo: GLS Thermoplastic Elastomers has developed a portfolio of five FDA-compliant VERSAFLEX™ HC thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) made without phthalates or halogens and featuring extremely low extractables. These new healthcare TPE grades can help tubing manufacturers comply with current and anticipated regulations while delivering high performance and quality.

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